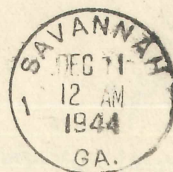


Lt. Frank W. Loops
C/o Staging Director
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HUNTER FIELD, GEORGIA



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OFFICERS' MESS

CLUB ROOMS

HUNTER FIELD, GEORGIA

% Staging Director
Flight Test Section
Hunter Field, Ga.
December 10, 1944

Hija, Folks.-

Gee, - the weeks sure travel by in a hurry, these days. - Seems like just a few days ago that I wrote - but looking back - guess it was last Sunday, - cause I had a 2 1/2 day trip to Columbus, Ohio, in the meantime! So I guess maybe I just can't keep up with myself.

This last week has been just a wee bit slower than the one before - but just as interesting. - Tuesday morning out of a clear sky. - I was sent on this trip to Ohio where we stayed for 2 nights and a day. - Returning via Richmond, Va. - to circumvent a bit of weather.

I went with another pilot - "Bud Font" and stayed with his sister and her family. Had planned to stay in a hotel, - but no rooms were

available due to a convention. - It really worked out better anyhow, tho. - for his folks seemed glad to have me - and I had a much better time! - We all went out to a neighborhood recreational center the first night where we bowled and stuff. - The second night we just sat around and talked. When we left, we didn't know for sure whether the weather would actually let us get away or not - so once off - we had to fly over the "house" - buzzing - so as to dispell any doubt! - There shouldn't have been any!

Friday, - on returning here, - I attempted to do a little Christmas shopping - but didn't get very far! - Boy, - it's a job when you've been away so long that you have no idea of what anybody needs or likes. - I'll have to get ambitious and try to finish up, this week.

Seems I am about to land in a social swirl here in Savannah. - The other day one of the boys asked me if I would go to a "coming out ball" with him. - His girl is one of those making her "debut" around Christmas - and it was someone's bright idea that there should be two escorts for each



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girl! - The ideas some people have! Anyhow - I'm to be one of the escorts! - And to top things off - yesterday I received a very formal invitation to attend a tea dance on Dec. 26th - and am to accompany another of the "debutantes" - I haven't answered yet - but think I'll go. - I've never seen a "coming out" occasion (at least not in all the Savannah pomp & glory!) and I'm sure it will be at least "educational" if not entertaining! -

And, Oh, yes - tomorrow night there is a dinner in honor of the Commanding Officer, ~~the~~ of Hunter Field! - He wanted to know if I wouldn't "like to attend"! - He was a ~~Colonel~~ Colonel - and just this week he was made a Brigadier General! - And you know now - if never before - his wish is my command! - He's a "big dog" now!

Last night was the usual dance - and I had the girl I met at the wedding - a nice time was had by all. - I guess - But the dances at the club each Sat. night are getting to be a sort of routine.

I was glad to get Daddy's letter yesterday. - Guess Sister feels pretty good having some one to write for her now. - And will feel even better when Mama + Daddy, both, get to messing around in the kitchen! Seems sorta odd, tho. I bet. - After so long a time. -

I checked out officially as a first pilot of a B-17 yesterday. I thought I'd be on my own in an A-26 before I did it in a 17- but things didn't work out that way. - However - have just been sitting around waiting for an A-26 to fly - that's how close I am to checking out in that! -

Something else - last month I passed my 1000th hour flying time - that is Army time! - It's been a long time getting on this side of all that time, but it's quite a milestone. - Only need less than ~~500~~ 500 hrs now - and 3 more years as an officer and I can qualify as a "senior pilot." - Would only need one more year if they hadn't changed it! - Am practically there! -

It's nice to know you have a job all lined up Daddy - But I wouldn't be too eager to go back to work - Let's rest up good - before we go back to harness this time! -

Am glad things are so you could let your Miss Carrie go back to Fritzie. -
Write when you can. - Lots of love,
Frank